district will have any adverse effects on the women volunteers to take part in the various women development programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI VIMLA VERMA): The Media, Women's Movement and NGOs have strongly reacted to this and aroused social concerns and public opinion in the matter, which lends strength and support to women volunteers.

इलाहाबाद स्थित उत्तर-मध्य क्षेत्रीय सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र के कर्मचारियों के कम वेतनमान

2684. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) इलाहाबाद स्थित उत्तर-मध्य क्षेत्रीय सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र में चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों की न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यताएं तथा उनके वेतनमान क्या-क्या हैं;

(ख) इसी केन्द्र में कार्यक्रम परिचरों (प्रोग्राम अटैन्डैंट) की न्यूनतम शैक्षणिक योग्यताएं तथा उनके वेतनमान क्या-क्या हैं; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा, इतने कम वेतनमानों के कारण उपर्युक्त कर्मचारियों में व्याप्त असंतोष को दूर करने के लिए कौन-कौन से कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (शिक्षा विभाग और संस्कृति विभाग) में राज्य मंत्री (कुमारी शैलजा): (क) उत्तर-मध्यांचल सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र में चतुर्थ श्रेणी के पदों के लिए निर्धारित न्यूनतम शैक्षिक योग्यता कक्षा-V उत्तीर्ण है। इन पदों का वेतनमान 750-940 रुपये है।

(ख) कार्यक्रम परिसर के पद के लिए न्यूनतम शैक्षिक योग्यता इंटरमीडिएट उत्तीर्ण है। उक्त पद का वेतनमान 750-940 रुपये हैं।

(ग) कार्यक्रम परिचर के पद के वेतनमान को संशोधित करने का प्रस्ताव उत्तर-मध्यांचल सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र के विचाराधीन है।

No Interest by KRIBHCO in Gas based plant in Tripura

2685. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 178 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether gas allocation was not done by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas because KRIBHCO had lost interest in the project;

(b) if so, the reasons for the loss of interest;

(c) if not, whether difficult terrain and strengthening of road, has been treated as a sufficient reason for non-utilisation of gas available in this country for production of Fertilizers; and

(d) the infrastructural cost envisaged in the joint ammonia/urea venture in Oman vis-a-vis the cost involved in improving infrastructure in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) No tangible progress could be made in the implementation of KRIBHCO's proposed project to set up a gas-based 900 tpd ammonia and 1550 tpd urea plant at Ramchandranagar near Agartala in Tripura as the quantity of gas required by KRIBHCO could not be allocated. Infrastructural constraints have also impeded the progress on the project.

As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on 30.7.1994 between the Government of India, KRIBHCO and RCF on the one hand and the Sultanate of Oman and Oman Oil Company on the other hand, highway improvements upto the proposed plant site are to be carried out by the Sultanate of Oman at no cost to the other parties to the MOU.

Firmed up cost estimates for improving the infrastructure required for

establishment of a fertilizer plant in Tripura have not been prepared.

Production of Steel

2686. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of steel in the country during the last three years, year-wise and plant-wise;

(b) whether the production of steel is sufficient to meet the demand;

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to bridge the gap of production and demand of steel;

(d) whether Government propose to encourage private participation to increase the production of steel in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Plant-wise production of finished steel during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 was as under:—

(in '000 tonnes)

Plant	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Bhilai Steel Plant	2138	2189	2207
Durgapur Steel Plant	454	500	579
Rourkela Steel Plant	1151	1104	1159
Bokaro Steel Plant	2864	3084	2999
Total (SAIL Plants)	6607	6877	6944
Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO)	322	254	282
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	540	666	968
Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO)	945	971	1372
Total Main Producers	8414	8768	9566
Secondary Producers	6790	6431	8253
Grand Total:	15204	15199	17819

(b) to (e) During 1995-96, the domestic production of finished steel is expected to be 20.79 million tonnes as against the projected domestic demand of 20.32 million tonnes.

The Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in order to meet the increasing demand. Public Sector Steel Plants have taken up expansion and modernisation programmes. Due to resource constraint, no new steel plant is being planned in the Public Sector. Government is, therefor, encouraging and facilitating the setting up of steel plants in the private sector. Some of the steps taken by the Government in this direction are:—

(i) Removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for public sector;

(ii) Exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing subject to certain locational restrictions.

(iii) Inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industries for purposes of foreign investment;

(iv) De-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel;

(v) Reduction of duty on import of capital goods;

(vi) Liberalisation of import and export policy; and

(vii) Provision of Linkages for iron ore, coal and transport to new